

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01256 250632Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05

NSC-05 SS-15 /075 W

-----061495 250644Z /10

R 250515Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5084

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, UR, MASS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET DEPARTURES FROM SOMALIA

REF: STATE 167022 (NOTAL)

1. WE BELIEVE PRESS REPORTS OF MASSIVE SOVIET WITHDRAWALS FROM SOMALI

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ARE FALSE. WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT NUMBER OF RUSSIANS HAVE LEFT MOGADISCIO VIA AEROFLOT FLIGHTS TO MOSCOW, WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT INCOMING AEROFLOT FLIGHTS CONTINUE TO FERRY SOVIETS TO SOMALIA.

2. WE ARE LESS ABLE TO CONFIRM ANY PRESS SPECULATION REGARDING SOVIET ADVISORS IN BERBERA HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN INLAND TO HARGEISA. HOWEVER, TECHNICIANS RECENTLY BACK FROM HARGEISA REPORT SOVIETS IN HARGEISA HAVE BEEN ASKED RETURN TO MOGADISCIO. OTHERS CONTEND SOVIET PERSONNEL AT BERRGERA HAVE LEFT COUNTRY. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING AT BERGERA OR OUTSIDE MOGADISCIO AND WE DOUBT THAT WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS DO EITHER.

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3. ITALIANS TELL US THAT SOVIETS HAVE WITHDRAWN SOME OF THEIR ADVISORS FROM SOMALI MILITARY. EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE TELLS US SAME THING. EVEN IF THESE WITHDRAWALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, THEY CANNOT BE CHARACTERIZED AS MASSIVE NOR DO THEY APPEAR TO SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE A PRELIMINARY TO A LARGER WITHDRAWAL. IT MAY WELL

BE THAT SOME SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS HAVE SIMPLY BEEN RECALLED FROM EXPOSED FRONT-LINE UNITS TO MOGADISCIO AND OTHER LARGE CENTERS.

4. ITALIANS ALSO THINK THAT LIMITED SOVIET PERSONNEL WITHDRAWALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE UNILATERALLY AND WERE NOT THE RESULT OF ANY SOMALI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR A REDUCTION IN SOVIET PRESENCE.

5. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE SOVIET PERSONNEL IN LARGE NUMBERS REMAIN IN SOMALIA AND THAT NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE EITHER TO MOSCOW OR IN MOGADISCIO FOR THEIR IMMINENT REMOVAL.
LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MASS, SO, UR
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